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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION
BUREAU OF ENTOMOLOGY AND PLANT QUARANTINE
Insects Affecting Man and Animals
E. A. Back

VINEGAR FLIES OR FRUIT FLIES

The minute brownish flies known as vinegar flies or fruit flies are often very annoying in kitchens and pantries. They breed in decaying vegetable matter, such as garbage, and are always strongly attracted to fermenting fruits, wine, vinegar, etc.

They are extremely difficult to combat because of their ability to go through ordinary screens. The principal step to be taken in holding them in check is to keep all garbage, overripe fruit, and refuse cleaned up thoroughly and to remove such substances from the premises daily. If any fermenting materials must be kept, they should be stored in a room protected by screens of about 30 meshes per inch. Keeping them in a cool and extremely dark place is also an aid in control. The containers themselves should be kept well covered with closely woven cloth.

To control these flies in towns and cities, a well-organized garbage-removal and street-cleaning system is very important. The full cooperation of the residents and city authorities is required because even small pieces of fruits will breed flies for more than a week. The systematic handling of garbage for control of fruit flies is also essential in housefly control.

Commercial fly sprays may be used to a limited extent in destroying the adult flies, but care should be taken not to get such materials into food products. This Department does not have a bulletin on this subject.

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